

# WALKING TOUR OF THE WEST WABASH HISTORIC DISTRICT



ALL OF THE BUILDINGS OF THIS WALKING TOUR, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, WERE INCLUDED AS A DISTRICT ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES IN 1987.

APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF TOUR: 2 MILES



## WALKING TOUR No. 2

### HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE OF THE WEST WABASH HISTORIC DISTRICT



Produced for Wabash Marketplace, Inc. by the Center for Historic Preservation of Ball State University's College of Architecture and Planning, with support from the Ford Meter Box Foundation and Richard Ford. This project was also made possible by a matching grant by the Building Better Communities Fund at Ball State University. The printing was made possible in part with funding from the Community Foundation of Wabash County. Text, graphics, and design by Ball State Historic Preservation graduate student Audrey York, under the supervision of Dr. James Glass and Susan Lanford. Thanks to Catherine Compton, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, North Central Field Office; Dr. Mark Fearnow, Dr. James Ford Historic Home; Trula Frank, Wabash County Convention and Visitors Bureau; Beth Stein, assistant to Richard Ford; and Ron Woodward, Wabash County Historian.

\*ENSURING THE FUTURE OF DOWNTOWN WABASH\*

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#### A FEW DEFINITIONS:

**Brace-board:** a decorated, inclined board along the gable.  
**Bracket:** a decorative element that appears to support the cornice of Italianate buildings; it can be S-shaped, L-shaped, or triangular.  
**Buttress:** projection built to provide extra stability to a wall or arch.  
**Tramming:** slope being almost vertical.  
**Mansard Roof:** a traditional French roof design with a double slope, the lower slope being almost vertical.  
**Pediment:** a low-pitched, triangular gable common in Classical architecture, sometimes supported by columns, as in a portico, and sometimes a heading for a door or window.  
**Pilasters:** a rectangular support that resembles a flat column, projecting only slightly from the wall and having a base, a shaft, and a capital.  
**Side-light:** narrow window to the side of a door or window.  
**Tramming:** an ornamental recessed space or panel above a lintel over an opening contained by an arch set above it.  
**Half-timbering:** a building with timber applied to it in parts suggesting timber-framing.  
**Freeze:** a horizontal, central band below a building's cornice.  
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# WEST WABASH HISTORIC DISTRICT GUIDE TO ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

Styles of architecture have changed throughout time depending upon the popular trends and fashions among architects and clients. In the West Wabash Historic District, the buildings that are included in the walking tour fall roughly into ten categories of style. Below are sketches of each style represented using a building from the tour, the time frame that the style was popular in Wabash, and a brief description of some of the main characteristics of each style.



**Gothic Revival Residential (1840-1870)**

In terms of residential structures, the Gothic Revival style's most common features include steeply pitched roofs and steep cross gables with decorative bargeboards. Other characteristic elements include one-story porches supported by flattened Gothic arches.



**Stick Style (1860-1890)**

The Stick Style is characterized by a steeply pitched roof with cross gables and wooden wall cladding accentuated with patterns of vertical, horizontal, or diagonal boards referred to as stickwork. Rectangular or square towers are common, along with decorative trusses on dormers, gables, and porches.



**Second Empire (1855-1885)**

The Second Empire style is distinguished most easily by its mansard roof line. Dormer windows, molded cornices, and decorative brackets and window surrounds are also common features of the style. Approximately thirty percent of Second Empire-style homes exhibit a square or rectangular tower.



**Colonial Revival (1880-1955)**

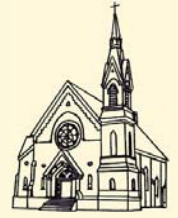
The Colonial Revival style exhibits a highly accentuated front door and porch capped with a pediment and supported by pilasters and columns, a symmetrical front facade, and double-hung sash windows. Other characteristics that distinguish the style are broken pediments and side-lights without fanlights.



**Craftsman (1905-1930)**

The Craftsman style is characterized by a low-pitched, gabled roof, exposed roof rafters, and either a full- or partial-width porch supported by square columns. The side-gabled roof subtype, depicted in the sketch above, often exhibits either centered shed or gabled dormers.

**Gothic Revival Ecclesiastical (1840-1940)**



In terms of ecclesiastical structures, the Gothic Revival style's most identifiable characteristic is the pointed arch. Also common to the style are buttresses, spires, and steeply-pitched roofs.

**Neo-Classical (1895-1950)**



The Neo-Classical style's most prominent feature is its dominating full-height porch supported by Classical columns. Other common characteristics include Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian capitals, symmetrical facades, central doors, and rectangular windows.

**Tudor (1890-1940)**



The Tudor style is dominated by steeply-pitched side-gabled roofs, one or more prominent cross gables on the main facade, and half-timbering. Windows are usually multi-paned and assembled in groups.

**Italianate (1840-1885)**



The Italianate style is characterized by a low-pitched roof, two or three stories, decorative paired brackets, and tall, slender windows. Also common to the style are arched, curved, or rectangular window tops, simple one-story porches, and either hipped or gable roofs.

**Queen Anne (1880-1910)**



The Queen Anne style is distinguished by its asymmetry, steeply pitched and irregular roofs, and a dominant front-facing gable. Also common to the style are one-story verandas extending along either one or both side walls supported by either Classic columns or spindlework.



### 1. First United Methodist Church

110 North Cass Street  
Built: 1900  
Style: Gothic Revival

The First United Methodist Church was dedicated on March 11, 1900, during the pastorate of Reverend H. N. Herrick.

The congregation was organized in 1837. The 1890 pipe organ in the church came from their 1863 building, once located on the site of Saint Bernard Catholic Church across the street.

This Gothic Revival structure has undergone minor alterations, yet it remains an excellent example of its style. Notable features include the octagonal turret with lancet windows at the corner, the two main sanctuary windows with tracery, and the three extruding limestone entry vestibules with sharply pointed gables. The stained glass windows were purchased from the Kansas City Stained Glass Company in 1899. An addition was completed in 1964, and another large addition is planned.



### 2. Frank & Abbie Blount House

44 West Sinclair Street  
Built: 1883  
Style: Stick Style

Frank and Abbie Blount received this lot on West Sinclair Street as a wedding gift from his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Rufus Blount. Mr. Blount joined Kothe, Wells and Bauer, an Indianapolis wholesale grocery firm, in 1889 and served as local manager for most of his life. Dr. Blount, who lived in the home in his later years, served as a physician in Wabash for more than fifty years.

An excellent example of Stick Style architecture, this home retains much of its historic features such as its tall proportion, very irregular plan, complex roof forms, knee braces and brackets, contrasting vertical siding above and below the windows, banding and paneling, and cornerboards. Also of interest is its square tower with pyramidal roof and projecting porch.



### 3. Joseph & Kate Busick House

40 West Sinclair Street  
Built: c. 1890  
Style: Eclectic

Joseph Busick was one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of Wabash when he and his wife Kate built this home about 1890.

Mr. Busick was involved in multiple business ventures, which ultimately led to a fortune estimated between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

With its varied architectural features, this structure is classified primarily as eclectic. Italianate features include its hipped roof, projecting cornice supported by brackets, rectilinear massing of the building, and arched porch on the façade. Typical of the Queen Anne style are the stepped, hexagonal tower over the east projecting bay and the jerkinhead gable over the two-story projecting bay of the front façade.



### 4. Talbert-Weesner House

206 West Main Street  
Built: c. 1890; 1902  
Style: Queen Anne

William and Mary Talbert, the earliest known owners, purchased the home in 1893 when Mr. Talbert was involved in the international horse-trading business. Later, he served as President for Citizens Savings and Trust Company in Wabash. Clarkson and Anna Weesner moved to the home in 1902 and remained there until 1924. While in this home, Mr. Weesner edited the 1914 two-volume *History of Wabash County*.

The Talberts made a major T-plan addition to the originally narrow, one-story structure in 1893. In 1902, the Weesners added Neo-Classical features including the porch of the south elevation with its coursed limestone block piers, pedimented gable, dentilled frieze, and colonettes.



### 5. Sivey-Tyer House

306 West Main Street  
Built: c. 1850s  
Style: Gothic Revival

John Sivey, one of Wabash County's early settlers, was the Wabash Circuit Court clerk from 1848 to 1859. While clerk, he and his wife Lucinda built this home. Mr. Sivey was also a successful land agent who lent his name

to two real estate plats in Wabash. In 1862, John and Sarah Tyer purchased the home and lived there until 1867. Mr. Tyer was also an early Wabash County settler and served as a constable in Wabash for many years.

The Gothic Revival-style cottage is a rare example of a residence of the style in Indiana. The steeply pitched central front gable, the two-level porch, and board and batten wooden siding are all characteristics of the style. Original decorative details to the front gable have been lost, but new similar elements have been added.



### 6. Harry & Lola Jackson House

442 West Main Street  
Built: 1916  
Style: Craftsman

Harry and Lola Jackson built this home and resided there until 1941. The Jacksons were married in September 1891 and were avid

members of the Wabash Christian Church, where Mr. Jackson served as a trustee. He was active in the Wabash community and belonged to the Elks Lodge and Rotary International of Wabash.

This home is an excellent example of a Craftsman-style bungalow. Its low-pitched side-gabled roof, central shed dormer supported by simple squared piers, and exposed rafters ends are very common to the style. Other typical features include its three-over-one window glazing and the partial-width porch supported by a square column and contained under the main roof.



### 7. David & Harriet Marks House

170 Thorne Street  
Built: 1905  
Style: Queen Anne

David and Harriet Marks were the first owners of this home. Mr. Marks served as a Wabash city councilman and chair of

the county's Democratic central committee. In 1914, he was called by President Wilson to serve on the Claims Commission for the Isthmus of Panama, in connection with the Panama Canal.

This home of irregular plan incorporates features such as diagonal corners, several projecting bays, and a patterned slate roof. Also notable is the large wrap-around veranda on the east and south sides. The veranda includes a semicircular turret overlooking the bluff, a gable over the entry steps, paired Tuscan columns, and a spindle balustrade.



### 8. Woman's Clubhouse

770 West Hill Street  
Built: c. 1889  
Style: Institutional

The Woman's Clubhouse Association has leased this building from the Wabash Park Board since 1930. However, the building was erected as the Orphan's Home. It was remodeled in 1905 and used as a

hospital and training school for nurses until 1919. The initial membership of the Woman's Clubhouse was 701 and reached 1,002 during the late 1950s and 1960s. The Clubhouse has served the community by hosting events such as art exhibits and benefit parties.

This large two-story brick structure is notable for its hipped, low-pitched roof, tall, narrow windows with the original four-over-four wooden sashes, segmental window arches, and asymmetrical plan.



### 9. Daugherty-Ford House

654 West Hill Street  
Built: 1860s  
Style: Federal/Classical

Josiah and Minerva Daugherty built this home. Mr. Daugherty was in the meatpacking and livestock business and served as president of the First National Bank of Wabash for over thirty-five years.

Their daughter, Marie Daugherty Webster, became a famous quilt designer; her home in Marion, Indiana is used as the Quilters Hall of Fame. John and Kathryn Ford purchased the home in the late 1930s, while Mr. Ford was serving as the secretary-treasurer of the Ford Meter Box Company.

The home originally had Federal style features in its façade, an Italianate cornice with panels and brackets, and three one-story porches. The two-story pedimented portico in the Ionic style was added to the home in the 1940s and gave the home a Classical appearance. However, the Federal style can still be seen in the oblong shape, gable roof with end chimneys, tall narrow windows, and flat stone lintels over the windows.



### 10. William Yarnell House

614 West Hill Street  
Built: 1900  
Style: Colonial Revival

Soon after William and Mildred Yarnell built this home, Mr. Yarnell bought the Duck & Pressler Lumber Company and created the Yarnell Lumber and Coal Company. He served as president of this company and also as president of the Nonotuck Oil and Gas Company of Wabash. In the 1930s, their son Kenneth took over the business and continued to live in the home. He served in World War I, became a district commander of the American Legion, and was elected a director of the Home Loan & Savings Association.

Notable details of this home include the symmetrical arrangement of features, the central Palladian window in the second story, and the pediment with its fanlight window and cornice with modillions and dentils. Other interesting elements include the dormer windows with swan's neck pediments and the Tuscan pilasters at the corners of the house.



### 11. DePuy-Vaughn House

373 West Hill Street  
Built: 1899  
Style: Eclectic

Frank DePuy, a real estate agent, and his wife, Henrietta, built this home. Thomas F. Vaughn, president of the Wabash Cabinet Company, purchased the home in the late 1910s.

This house is an eclectic mixture of the Prairie style, Romanesque Revival, American Foursquare, and Colonial Revival styles. Prairie style characteristics can be seen in the low, flared, hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves. Romanesque features include the round-arched windows of the first and second floors. American Foursquare elements are the rectangular façade, hipped roof, and central dormer. Colonial details are seen in the Tuscan columns of the porch and the entry with side-lights and transom.



### 12. Clarkson & Anna Weesner House

313 West Hill Street  
Built: 1885  
Style: Queen Anne

Clarkson Weesner, one of Wabash's most prominent citizens, and his wife Anna built this home. Mr. Weesner served as deputy treasurer, county clerk, city clerk, mayor of

Wabash, and president of the Old Settlers Association.

This Queen Anne-style home was included in Wilbur Peat's classic book, *Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century*, and is one of the best examples of the style in Wabash. Interesting features of the structure include the two tiers of porches with fretwork and balustrades on the façade, the side veranda, diagonally-cut corners, projecting rectangular bay at one of the corners, and dormer windows with varied shapes.

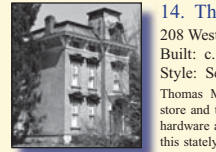


### 13. Harmon & Carolyn Wolf House

261 West Hill Street  
Built: 1890s  
Style: Eclectic

While the original owners of the home are unknown, Harmon and Carolyn Wolf occupied this home from 1904 until the mid-1940s. Mr. Wolf, originally from Germany, was in the business of importing Belgian draft horses. His sons, Louis and Henry, joined their father in this business and continued to reside in the home.

Although it has features of both Romanesque Revival and Colonial Revival styles, this home takes on a very individualistic approach. Consistent with the Romanesque style are the rock-faced, coursed limestone of the façade and the round-arched hoods of the first-story windows. Colonial Revival features are the oblong shape, somewhat symmetrical arrangement of windows, and symmetrical dormer windows. Two projecting bay windows with sheet metal ornamentation on the façade and side elevation draw more from the Queen Anne style.



### 14. Thomas & Mary McNamee House

208 West Hill Street  
Built: c. 1870  
Style: Second Empire/Italianate

Thomas McNamee began business in 1855 with a stove store and tin shop. His business ultimately grew to include hardware and prospered considerably, allowing him to build this stately home. Mr. McNamee was one of three founders of the Wabash County Bank and served as president of its successor, the Wabash National Bank, for nearly twenty years. According to the 1914 *History of Wabash County*, he was "one of the most widely known men in the county."

This home won local note when it was included in the 1962 *Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century* by Wilbur Peat. The Second Empire style is seen primarily in the corner tower with its convex mansard roof and dormer windows. The rectangular massing, hipped roof, and cornice with brackets suggest the Italianate style. The patterned slate roof and heavily molded window hoods add to the splendor of this home.



### 15. Carnegie Public Library

188 West Hill Street  
Built: 1903  
Style: Neo-Classical

The Wabash Carnegie Public Library was built with a donation of \$20,000 from Andrew Carnegie. The structure's architect was John Franklin Wing of Wing and Mahurin of Fort Wayne. The initial stacks contained less

than 5,000 books, but a growing collection of volumes and other educational materials brought about a tripling of size with a 1970s addition, which is sympathetic in materials and color.

The most prominent feature of this Neo-Classical structure is its portico with Ionic columns supporting a plain frieze and pediment with decorative antefixes. Before the 1970s addition, a stairwell led from Hill Street to the main entry door within the portico. Another very noteworthy feature is the copper dome, which in the interior, exhibits a display of colored wire glass.



### 16. Dr. James Ford Historic Home

177-79 West Hill Street  
Built: c. 1841  
Style: Federal/Italianate

One of the most respected physicians in the region, Dr. James Ford built this home with his wife America. Dr. Ford also served as

a charter trustee of North Western Christian (later Butler) University in Indianapolis. Currently, the Dr. James Ford Historic Home is a museum offering interpretations of 19<sup>th</sup> century family life in Wabash, a doctor's office, decorative arts, and gardening.

The ell-shaped original house was probably Federal in style when built—the flat stone lintels over the windows and the side-lights and transom of the main entry are Federal features. Italianate features probably added later include the paired brackets and dentil pattern along the cornice. A major restoration by Richard E. Ford, a great-grandson of the doctor, has returned lost features, such as the projecting bay window and entry porch to the facade.



### 17. Presbyterian Church

123 West Hill Street  
Built: 1884  
Style: Gothic Revival

The current Presbyterian Church was constructed to replace the original building, erected in the 1850s. The present structure was built over approximately four years and cost roughly \$28,000. Dr. Charles Little was the pastor of this congregation when they constructed the new edifice and served until his death in 1921.

The Gothic Revival style of this structure is clearly seen in its pointed arch windows, stone-capped brick buttresses on the east and west facades, and the ninety-foot tall multi-staged spire including a belfry. Also of note is the large stained glass rose window in the façade and the brick corbel table below the cornice.



### 18. Wabash Christian Church

110 West Hill Street  
Built: 1871  
Style: Romanesque/Italianate

The Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was designed by Dr. James Ford. The church building, which has been in continual service for over 130 years, is one of the oldest religious structures in the county.

Several styles are combined in the design, including Romanesque and Italianate. The façade features an entrance below an arch of compound archivolts and an octagonal belfry with a domical roof. Other notable features include the corbelled cornice, the stone quoins on the corners, circular window of the entry pavilion, and semicircular hood molds over tall, arched windows. The church retains its original stained glass windows and oak-and-walnut pews installed in 1890.



### 19. Lumaree-Adams House

106 North Miami Street  
Built: c. 1900  
Style: Colonial Revival

Cornelius and Lida Lumaree lived in the residence from its construction until 1932. The property then changed

hands six times before it was occupied by J. Warren and Irene Adams, who lived there through the 1950s and 1960s. Mrs. Adams was clerk at Thompson Electric Store, and Mr. Adams, a painter, served in World War I. He later became a charter member and commander of the American Legion of Wabash and a member of the Elks Lodge.

Loosely based on vernacular Colonial houses of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, this home is a nice example of an average citizen's residence. Architectural features include a side-gabled roof, cornice emphasized by a wide band of trim comprised of undecorated boards, small frieze-band windows set into this trim, and a small front porch supported by slender spandrels and pilasters.



### 20. Gardner-Houser-Nixon House

180 North Miami Street  
Built: 1903  
Style: Tudor Revival

Marland Gardner, founder of the Wabash Cabinet Company, and his wife Della built the home and later sold it to Dr. Burvia Houser, a renowned surgeon and physician, and his wife Anna. The Housers sold the home to Don and Eugenia Nixon in the late 1920s or early 1930s. Mr. Nixon was the founder of Nixon Newspapers. Mrs. Nixon, a concert pianist, later became the wife of Mark Honeywell, a founder of Honeywell International.

An excellent example of the Tudor Revival style, this home employs the use of half-timber and stucco. Architectural features include the steeply pitched cross gables of the roof, the large polygonal projecting bay of the west façade, and the diamond quarrels of the windows.